

What's Playing in Africa: Monday, May 17, 2010

Produced by the Regional Media Hub: Africa



The goal of the African Regional Media Hub is to increase official US voices and faces on African television, radio and other media, so that the US government message is visible, active and effective in advocating US policies, priorities, and actions with African audiences.

In the Headlines:

- Moreno-Ocampo's visit to Kenya revives debate on ICC objectives
- Sudan security close opposition party paper
- Nigeria parliament to consider VP nominee Tuesday
- Sudan's Islamist leader Turabi arrested
- Sudan and Darfur region challenges daunting
- What Africa needs to learn from the UK poll
- Is Rwanda really unraveling?
- When Museveni is Chief detective Besigye becomes a criminal
- Eritrea's President Isaias supports Egypt over Ethiopia on the Nile river issue
- Rape on the increase as UN mulls quitting DRC
- Somali fighting kills 24, PM says government stays
- Senegal advised against "extravagant" nuclear energy

On the U.S.

<http://en.afrik.com/article17644.html>

Sudan and Darfur region challenges daunting

United States Special Envoy Scott Gration acknowledged at a congressional hearing that the challenges facing Sudan and the Darfur region are daunting, with a referendum on the future of southern Sudan less than eight months away and work needed on a long-term peace agreement. The time need to resolve these issues is limited, and the various factions must work together, engaging in open talks and building trust, Gration said in remarks prepared for a May 12 Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled a comprehensive U.S. policy for resolving the conflicts in Sudan in October 2009 that focused on ending human rights abuses and genocide in Darfur and fully implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). January 9 marked the fifth anniversary of the peace agreement.

Governance

<http://www.theeastafrikan.co.ke/news/-/2558/919080/-/pf34vvz/-/index.html>

Moreno-Ocampo's visit to Kenya revives debate on ICC objectives

The recent visit to Kenya by International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has rekindled the debate that the Court is only targeting African leaders. Since the indictment of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir in March 2009, a number of African leaders have been arguing that Africa is being targeted and the ICC is just another weapon in the hands of the West to keep the continent down. Mr. Moreno-Ocampo has opened cases against 16 individuals for alleged crimes against humanity in northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and the Darfur region

of Sudan. In addition, the prosecutor is investigating post-election violence in Kenya. He was in Kenya recently on five-day visit to carry out fresh investigations into the 2007-08 post-election violence and put names to the crimes that the pre-trial chamber had adjudged as having met the threshold of international crimes against humanity.

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/What%20Africa%20needs%20to%20learn%20from%20the%20UK%20poll/-/2558/918824/-/khg2gwz/-/index.html>

What Africa needs to learn from the UK poll

While most African countries were gloating over the fact that there were problems with the British electoral system, those who observed the just concluded elections say they were nothing near the Kenyan, Zimbabwean or Nigerian elections. Media reports that the UK police are investigating cases of electoral frauds have got some African leaders on a celebratory mood, reveling in the fact that UK, that has been chastising Africa for malpractices, also became a victim.

There were reports of electoral fraud in the Rochdale, North Manchester, Oldham and Bolton areas with a number of voters being locked out when the voting process closed at 10pm. A total of 23 allegations of election irregularities across London were investigated.

<http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/the-last-word/the-last-word/3-the-last-word/2890-is-rwanda-really-unravelling->

Is Rwanda really unraveling?

Recent events in Rwanda have filled my inbox. For example, a journalist in Uganda wrote to me on Skype in celebratory mood: "Finally your Rwanda (sic) is unravelling; pretty fast, very dramatically: Newspapers suspended ahead of elections, grenade blasts, senior army officers arrested, endless talk of a putsch underway, diplomats deserting their stations and fleeing, wow! What a country?" "In fact," he continued, "this casts doubt about the quality and credibility of your insights about Rwanda. Even when it was clear that Rwanda was deeply unstable and misgoverned, seething under the iron hand of a despot, you continued to paint a deceptive picture of a dynamic country marching ahead. Well, I love it that the passage of time has exposed [President Paul] Kagame."

The assessment that Rwanda is one of the best governed countries in Africa is not my view alone. It is shared by the major global institutions like the World Bank and by the most respected leaders in business, academia, church, politics, and journalism like Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Charles Onyango-Obbo, Michael Porter, Rich Warren etc.

<http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/column/guest-column/68-guest-column/2832-when-museveni-is-chief-detective-besigye-becomes-a-criminal->

When Museveni is Chief detective Besigye becomes a criminal

The summoning of FDC president Dr Kizza Besigye to CID headquarters last week brought out an important observation. It clearly proved two major things: It exposed the incompetence and vulnerability of the Uganda Police Force and President Museveni's interference in the police work. I will not delve into the merits and demerits of Besigye's alleged remarks. But the most striking thing is how Museveni has taken control of the Uganda Police and often stampedes them into actions they are not prepared for. Addressing the press in Baralege village in Okwang, Otuke district on April 1, President Museveni said: "I am told when Dr Besigye was recently here he said that we sold Lake Kyoga to a South African company. If this is true that Besigye said it, then the law will have to follow up with him." He added: "How can someone who wants to be a leader tell lies? I am going to tell the police to find out from Besigye under what contract we sold Lake Kyoga. Police will have to ask him. He must answer for this." That was enough. The police started running in all directions like headless chicken trying to find what to do with the President's directive. The whole CID which had been sleeping until Museveni woke

them up, started work. "We have dispatched a team to serve him [Besigye] with the summons," the CID Director Edward Ochom declared.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE64F01E20100516>

Sudan security close opposition party paper

Sudanese security agents arrested opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi and closed his party's newspaper a month after the country's first open elections in 24 years, supporters said on Sunday. Armed officers gave no explanation when they detained Turabi in his Khartoum home late on Saturday and took him away to Khartoum's Kober prison, family and supporters said.

<http://www.leadershipnigeria.com/news/cover-stories/15072-i-will-rule-with-fear-of-god--jonathan>

I will rule with the fear of God

President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday assured Nigerians that he will rule with the fear of God and in line with the oath of office that he took. He also called on Nigerians to change their attitudes as their positive contributions are needed to complement the efforts of the government. Jonathan was speaking during a prayer session organised in honour of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua at the National Christian Centre, Abuja. According to him, the death of Yar'Adua was painful and is still a shock to him, but that he will continue with the vision of the late leader as a consolation for him and the nation. He said: "Yar'Adua's death is painful. He was a great leader who meant well for the country. I will carry on with his work. In these 12 months, I will not promise this or that, but I am committed to bringing a change. "I want Nigerians to be patriotic and to criticize us constructively. It is not only Mr. Government, but all of us must change."

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE64F03O20100516>

Nigeria parliament to consider VP nominee Tuesday

Nigeria's parliament will begin confirmation hearings on Tuesday for President Goodluck Jonathan's nominee for vice president, a senior lawmaker said on Sunday. Ita Enang, chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Business, confirmed that Jonathan asked parliament on Friday to approve Kaduna state Governor Namadi Sambo as his deputy. Parliament is likely to confirm Sambo without much debate because Jonathan's ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) dominates both houses of parliament.

<http://en.afrik.com/article17646.html>

South Africa-Zimbabwe: Twin case of treachery in South Africa

South Africa and Zimbabwe have a strong tradition of sharing not only borders, business, culture and tradition but also weather patterns. The month of May in Southern Africa is the beginning of winter so when dry chilly winds blow over the Drakensberg Mountains in Kwazulu-Natal, we citizens of Harare have to insulate our bodies in woolen apparel just to remain barely alive! Whenever Cape Town is spewing thunderstorms and hailstones, the people of Bulawayo wade in muddy roads. Such is our bond with South Africa that Robert Mugabe even gloats about 'revolutionary ties' between his ZANU-PF and Mandela's ANC - another case of a dictator scrapping the bottom of the barrel of companionship and acceptance! If the truth be told, it was Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU that had a working relationship with ANC, not ZANU-PF. Who will save our children from an advanced case of distorted facts and delusory fables meant to prop up the ego of a fading political party?

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/36132>

Sudan's Islamist leader Turabi arrested

Hassan al-Turabi, once the influential ideologist behind Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, has again been arrested in Khartoum. Mr. al-Turabi led the Islamist opposition in Sudan's recent elections. The Saturday evening arrest of Mr. al-Turabi was confirmed yesterday by the secretary of the controversial Islamist opposition leader. Armed police reportedly had stormed the house of Mr. al-Turabi late in the night, giving no explanation for his arrest.

http://www.jimmatimes.com/article/Africa_News/Africa_News/Eritreas_President_Isaias_supports_Egypt_over_Ethiopia_on_Nile_river_issue/33470

Eritrea's President Isaias supports Egypt over Ethiopia on the Nile river issue

According to a publication by the Eritrean Ministry of Information, President Isaias Afwerki has reached an agreement with Egypt on various bilateral matters. President Isaias Afewerki said the Nile Littoral States (Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda etc) are however making the "wrong agreements and regulations" on the use of the Nile river. In an interview with Egyptian Television, Isaias said the position of upstream Nile countries "not only aggravates the situation but also creates tension. " On May 14, upstream Nile river countries signed a new Nile treaty to replace old colonial treaties. The old treaties between Egypt and Sudan as well as with the old British Empire awarded Egypt nearly full control of the Nile resources despite Egypt contributing less than 5 percent to the river. The new agreement came after ten years of negotiations for equitable use of the river.

Conflict

<http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/reports/world-report/74-world-report-/2867-rape-on-the-increase-as-un-mulls-quitting-dr-congo>

Rape on the increase as UN mulls quitting DRC

At least 400 women are raped every month in the south eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) province of South Kivu. The rapists, mainly rebel militia and government soldiers, do not discriminate regardless of age, marital status or ethnicity in the province of 5 million residents. They also inflict all manner of sexual violence on the women. According to a study carried out by Oxfam and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in DR Congo, over 4,311 women had experienced sexual violence either in their homes, forests or in the fields. The report that was released on April 15 shows that the incidence of rape spiked during military activities but rape by civilians is also going up. The research found that less than one percent of rapes were perpetrated by civilians in 2004. By 2008, that proportion had gone up to 38 percent.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE64G01920100517>

Somali fighting kills 24, PM says government stays

Heavy shelling pounded Somalia's capital on Sunday, killing at least 24 people and wounding dozens, as parliament's first sitting this year triggered a call by the speaker for a new government. Speaker Sheikh Aden Madobe told reporters he had asked the country's president to form a new government after a parliamentary vote of no confidence. However, Somalia's Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke said his Western-backed government would continue its work.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8684544.stm>

Sudan military occupy Darfur rebel stronghold

Sudan's military says it has seized control of a key rebel stronghold in the western region of Darfur. An army spokesman, Al-Sawarmi Khaled, said more than 100 rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement (Jem) had been killed in the Jebel Moon area. The rebels say they left the area last month to avoid civilian casualties. The insurgents signed a preliminary peace deal and ceasefire with Khartoum in February, but then pulled out after accusing the government of acts of war.

Corruption

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/VP%20Bukenya%20denies%20govt%20fraud%20%20allegations%20in%20Chogm%20report/-/2558/918816/-/13nd6i3z/-/index.html>

Vice president Bukenya denies government fraud allegations in Chogm report

Ugandan leaders are on the spot for robbing their economy in the wake of shocking news that Vice President Prof Gilbert Bukenya could have presided over the mismanagement of \$250 million — about 10 per cent of the national budget — meant for projects ahead of the four-day Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that Kampala hosted in November 2007. The Parliament Accounts Committee (PAC) last week tabled a report into the mismanagement of the funds. The report accuses Prof Bukenya, who chaired a Cabinet sub-committee that was preparing for the event, and some ministers for causing financial loss to the country in shoddy deals. It is noteworthy that the final budget for CHOGM preparations increased from Ush270 billion (\$135 million) to about Ush500 billion (\$250 million) after significant amounts of money from key sectors such as roads, foreign affairs, health and education were reallocated to the CHOGM budget in supplementary budgeting.

Of Interest

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/36130>

Senegal advised against "extravagant" nuclear energy

Specialists in renewable energies claim to document that Senegal's plans to develop nuclear power plants are an "extravagancy" for the poor country, where conditions would be perfect for a quicker and cheaper production of solar energy. In an analysis made for afrol News by the Senegal office of the Spanish company Prosolia, different cost-efficiency alternatives are calculated to meet Senegal's desperate and immediate need to expand and diversify its energy production. The analysis follows Senegalese government initiatives to study the feasibility of nuclear power plants in the country.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.